



Royal Academy of Music,

Principal :

Sir A. C. MACKENZIE, K.C.V.O., Mus.D., LL.D., D.C.L., F.R.A.M.

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

ANNUAL

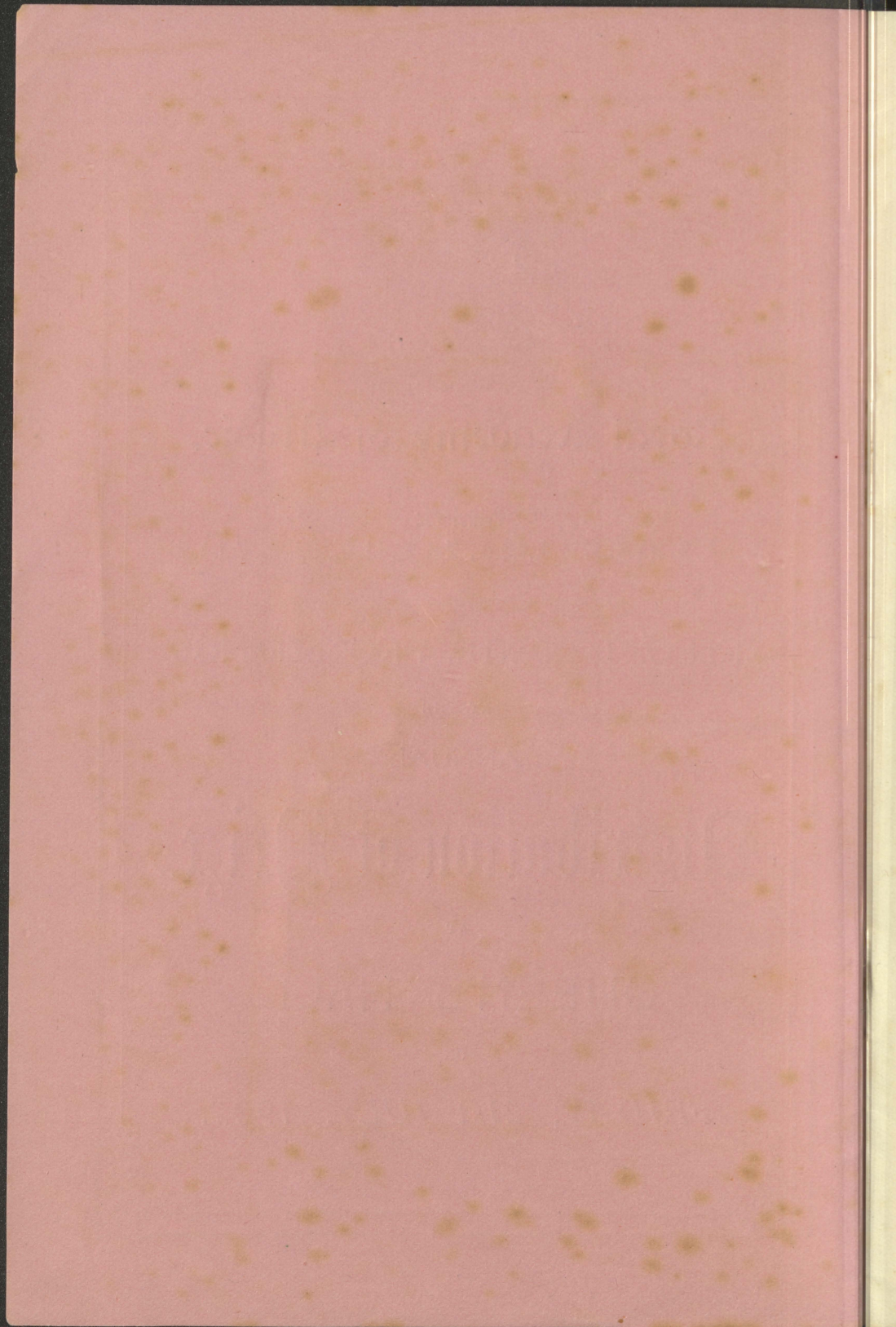
Distribution of Prizes

AT

QUEEN'S HALL,

ON

FRIDAY, 21st JULY, 1922.





The Royal Academy of Music.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES, 1922.

THE Annual Prize Distribution of the Royal Academy of Music took place on Friday, July 21, 1922, at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, in the presence of a large gathering of students, old students, and friends of the Institution. The Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, K.G., the President, occupied the chair and distributed the awards to the successful students. On arriving at the Hall his Royal Highness was received by the members of the Governing Bodies, and among those present were Sir Gilbert Greenall, Bart., C.V.O., Mr. Ernest Mathews, C.V.O., LL.D., the Right Hon. Lord Airedale, P.C., Brig.-General Sir Alfred G. Balfour, C.B., K.B.E., Mr. H. Entwisle Bury, Professor Sir James Dewar, LL.D., F.R.S., Baron Frederic d'Erlanger, Rear-Admiral M. S. FitzMaurice, R.N., C.B., C.M.G., Mr. Ludovic G. Foster, Mr. Henry V. Higgins, Colonel John Hopton, Mr. Saxton W. A. Noble, Mr. Leo F. Schuster, Mr. Herbert Sullivan, Mr. Robert Ward, Mr. Philip Leslie Agnew, Mr. Frederick Corder, F.R.A.M., Mr. Frederick George Fitch, J.P., Mr. Hugh Fitch, Mr. Frederic King, Hon. R.A.M., Sir Alexander Campbell Mackenzie, K.C.V.O., Mus.D., LL.D., D.C.L., F.R.A.M., Mr. Tobias Matthay, F.R.A.M., Mr. H. W. Richards, Mus.D. Dunelm., Hon. R.A.M., Mr. Alfred J. Waley, Mr. H. Wessely, Hon. R.A.M., and Mr. R. C. Wyse.

SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE : Your Royal Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen—To-day there is a slight change in the usual order of our proceedings, as his Royal Highness has an important engagement to keep. Perhaps the students may prefer to receive their awards now, for it relieves a certain amount of tension, not to say curiosity. Whatever I have to say will be said after the little programme of music. Meanwhile, when I remind you that this is the third occasion upon which our President has honoured and encouraged us by his presence during this week (Cheers), you will readily realise that any expressions of gratitude must fall woefully short of our full appreciation of his great kindness and his interest in this Academy. (Cheers.)

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT then distributed the prizes and awards.

MR. ERNEST MATHEWS, C.V.O., LL.D. : Your Royal Highness, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen—I am privileged this afternoon to propose a hearty vote of thanks to His Royal Highness, the President of our old Academy, for so kindly coming here to-day and giving away the prizes. As you have heard from Sir Alexander Mackenzie, His Royal Highness is no novice at this task, but I can assure you, Sir, that your presence is most thoroughly appreciated by all, from the Vice-President down to the youngest student in the Academy, and how very much more so by those who have been fortunate enough to receive prizes at your hands, for undoubtedly those prizes are thus very much enhanced in value. (Cheers.) I know, Sir, that you have an engagement elsewhere this afternoon, and therefore I do not want to say much, but I should like to add to what I have already said how deeply we are indebted to you during our festival proceedings, and for attending the entertainments and service given by this old Royal Academy. You attended, Sir, the service in St. Paul's, one of the most magnificent services, I understand, that has ever been held in that Cathedral within the memory of man. (Cheers.) You were also here when their Majesties The King and Queen, Princess Christian and Princess Victoria honoured the concert on Tuesday last, and here you are again to-day, untiring in your kindness towards the Royal Academy. I conclude simply by asking Your Royal Highness to accept, from the highest to the lowest in the Academy, our

grateful vote of thanks for your kindness in distributing the prizes. I will ask Mr. Philip Agnew, Chairman of the Committee of Management, to second this Resolution. (Cheers.)

MR. PHILIP L. AGNEW: Your Royal Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen—I should like, on behalf of the Committee of Management, to associate myself most warmly with the vote of thanks to his Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught so felicitously proposed by Mr. Mathews. To-day is without precedent in the long history of the Academy. There is no precedent, so far as I am aware, for reversing the order of our proceedings, and there is surely none—I should hope not, at least—for depriving the members of the Governing Bodies of the official customary red and white carnation buttonhole and providing us, in its place, as our sole adornment, with a mere button. (Laughter.) There is also, naturally, no precedent for our celebrating the Centenary. His Royal Highness, falling into line—if you will excuse me for so expressing it—has also disregarded precedent on this occasion, for he has been very conscious of the great importance of our historic celebrations. He did not wait to be invited, but interpreted our wishes and invitation by most kindly offering. (Loud cheers.) It was a most tactful and gracious act on the part of his Royal Highness, which we sincerely appreciate and shall long remember as convincing evidence, if evidence were needed, of the very close and personal interest which his Royal Highness takes in everything that concerns the well-being of the Royal Academy of Music. (Cheers.) Will those in favour of this Resolution please show it in the usual way?

The Resolution was carried with acclamation.

THE PRESIDENT, who was received with loud cheers, said: Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Ladies and Gentlemen—I am indeed very sensible of the very kind vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Mathews and seconded by Mr. Agnew. I think they have both interpreted my feelings very accurately. My interest in the Royal Academy of Music is, I can assure you, quite of the warmest. It was only last year when I distributed the prizes, as I have just had the privilege of doing to-day, that I, in connection with Sir Alexander Mackenzie, said how much we were looking forward to our Centenary this year. Well, the Centenary is drawing to a close, and I think

everybody will agree that it has been a great and important week for the Royal Academy of Music. I had the great benefit and joy of being at St. Paul's the other day, and I am sure that there are many others here who were also present. We all must have been struck with the magnificent rendering of British-written music which was played throughout the service. I never heard a finer service—I do not suppose that I ever will again—and I do congratulate all those who have taken immense trouble to make that service a credit to the Royal Academy of Music. I feel that the Centenary has been rather a heavy drain on the time and on the strength of many people who have rendered services on this occasion. I would very much like to congratulate the former pupils of the Royal Academy of Music on the splendid way in which they have played up on this occasion. (Loud cheers.) It only shows how much interest they still take in their former College, and we only hope that their example will be followed by those who are present pupils of the Royal Academy of Music. It is at all times a great pleasure to present prizes to those who deserve them, and I am sure that all those I have had the pleasure of handing them to deserve them richly. I hope it will be an encouragement to them to do even better another year. I can assure you that as long as I have the honour of being your President it will be at all times the greatest pleasure to me to come on these different occasions and to show, in this very small way, how very much, and how warmly, I take an interest in everything connected with the prosperity and welfare of the Royal Academy of Music. (Loud cheers.) I think the country owes a great debt to the Royal Academy of Music for what it has done, and for the way it has promoted English music in its best and purest form. I would take this opportunity, as a very hard week is drawing to a close, to congratulate Sir Alexander Mackenzie. (Loud and prolonged cheers.) I am sure that the response given to the mere mention of his name must be something that will make him feel he has rather a lump in his throat. He knows how warmly he is supported by all those under him, and he knows how hard his pupils work to do him credit. I can assure him there is nobody—and I have had the pleasure of his acquaintance for many years—for whom I have a greater respect and to whom, I think, the country ought to be more grateful for the magnificent way in which he has carried out the very

onerous, the very responsible, and the very important duties of Principal of the Royal Academy of Music. Before I sit down, may I, in the name of all of us here present, congratulate him upon the honour just conferred on him by His Majesty The King ? (Loud cheers.)

THE PRESIDENT then left to fulfil another engagement.

After the Students had performed a selection of music --

SIR FRANCIS H. GREEN (Chairman of the Music Committee of the City of London) said : Sir Alexander Mackenzie, I will read the Address which I have to present :—

“To the Chairman of the Committee of Management and the Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, 1892-1922.

“The Right. Hon. Lord Mayor of London (Sir J. J. Baddeley, Kt.), the Music Committee of the Corporation of London (Chairman, Sir Francis Hayden Green, Bart.), and the Guildhall School of Music (Principal, Sir Landon Ronald), desire to express their sincere congratulations to the Royal Academy of Music and Sir Alexander Mackenzie, K.C.V.O., upon the completion of the Centenary of the Royal Academy of Music.

“The approach of this event has been watched with the utmost interest by all classes of musicians, professional and amateur, throughout the British Empire, and not least by those two great Teaching Institutions which owe so much to the ripe experience and musicianship which have always distinguished those responsible for the management of the senior Institution.

“The Signatories to this Address sincerely trust that the Royal Academy of Music may continue its illustrious career for many centuries to come, and that the Committee, Principal, and those connected with it in any capacity may long be spared to enjoy the fruits of their labour.

“(Signed) John J. Baddeley, Lord Mayor of London;
Francis H. Green, Chairman of the
Music Committee; Landon Ronald,
Principal of the Guildhall School of
Music; H. Saxe Wyndham, Secretary
to the Guildhall School of Music.”

SIR FRANCIS GREEN continued: May I be permitted to add, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, that I consider myself extremely fortunate in being the spokesman of my Committee on this historic occasion? I trust that the cordial and friendly relations which have always existed between your great Institution and the Guildhall School of Music may continue for many years to come. (Cheers.)

SIR LANDON RONALD: Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Ladies and Gentlemen—I am very proud and pleased to second the presentation on behalf of the School over which I have the honour to preside. I am also extremely proud to have this occasion to pay my little tribute of great respect, esteem, and regard to your Principal, Sir Alexander Mackenzie. I yield to none, Ladies and Gentlemen, in my admiration for his genius, and, as a musician, I yield to none in my admiration for the way in which he occupies the Principalship of this original and national Institution. As one who has had some experience of being at the head of a big School of Music, I think Sir Alexander will agree with me that the post is no sinecure, but we all know that Sir Alexander has done his work most nobly. All I have to say is that I pray from my heart that he may be still spared for many years to rule over the destinies of the Royal Academy of Music. (Cheers.)

SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE: Sir Francis Green, Sir Landon Ronald, and Mr. Saxe Wyndham, on behalf of the Academy I desire to say that we receive with real pleasure those genial expressions and tokens of goodwill from the great City School. No matter when our Institutions were founded, we are all working in the same eager spirit for the grand cause of musical education. We value very highly indeed your kind words, and, in return, allow me to express the wish that the Guildhall School of Music may long continue to enjoy the prosperity it has deservedly won for itself. (Cheers.)

Ladies and Gentlemen—While it would be a dereliction of duty to omit this annual report, there are many reasons why I should repress any signs of loquacity to-day. One of them certainly is that the Academy has been speaking for itself all day long for the last fortnight. (Cheers.) Every department it professes to teach has had its individual say, and it is for the very large number of listeners rather than any one of us to express opinions on the results

of these numerous public exhibitions. But I may take upon myself to say that over all we have endeavoured to carry out, the keenest wish to present our best has prevailed, and on the part of the Students an enthusiastic spirit has presided over their opportunities to do honour to the splendid work of my colleagues, their teachers, whose names I dare not even begin to recite now. Alas! mingled with the pleasure of it all, there have been many very sad thoughts to temper the enjoyment of the memorable event. The Committee of Management suffered deeply and severely during this year by the "passing" of no less than four of its members in quick succession. All you who know our well-loved Chairman, Sir Edward E. Cooper, whose heart was always in the School during the many years he served it, can readily imagine the eager interest he took up to the very last in the celebration which he, alas! was not to witness. Then followed the loss of our old and loyal friend, Oscar Beringer, a great teacher to whom the Academy has been indebted for the last forty years; and almost at the same time Mr. Arthur Serena, who was here last year, a new friend and liberal patron of art and literature, was taken from us. And but a few weeks ago yet another died, whose invariable kindness and encouraging interest in all pertaining to the School will be sincerely missed, and that is Colonel Alexander Finlay. We have, therefore, been able to muster but a sadly depleted Committee when we had most need of all its members. Owing to the immediate pressure of the Committee's work, two of these seats remain unoccupied. But we welcome a gifted composer and prominent Professor, Mr. John B. McEwen, to fill one vacancy (Cheers), and a few days ago Mr. Wyse was received into our magic circle. The onerous position of the Chairmanship has been accepted by one who, having sat with us for twenty-seven years, knows not only all about the work and the needs of the School but the nature of the team which he is already expertly driving—Mr. Philip L. Agnew. May he hold the reins for a long time to come (Cheers). Our list of Professors, too, was recently shortened by the death of a most able musician—one of our own Mendelssohn Scholars—and most amiable man, Percy Miles, and by the retirement of the esteemed violinist and valued teacher, Mr. Alfred Gibson. The removal of that good old friend, the Rev. Canon Edgar Sheppard, rendered the Honorary Chaplaincy vacant; this honorary office has been accepted in the most kindly

manner by The Lord Bishop of London. (Cheers.) He has already visited us and spoken words of wisdom to an appreciative audience of students, and none of you who heard him at St. Paul's last Monday morning could have failed to be moved. Before passing to the immediate concerns of the day, I have still to mention, and with great pleasure, that the Directors have added largely to their numbers during the year, and many of those who have joined our Board will be quite well known to you as keen lovers of music. Some of them may hardly be called new-comers, since they have shown their interest in us for a long time—the Right Hon. Lord Airedale, the Right Hon. Viscount Coke, Rear-Admiral Maurice FitzMaurice, Mr. Ludovic Foster (an old friend), Mr. H. S. Goodhart-Rendel, and Colonel John Hopton. Such a succession of programmes, in which so large a number of performers have been active, can hardly be carried through without a considerable amount of anxiety on the part of those who shoulder the general responsibility; I am not alluding to the young folks behind and before me. They, at least, have been having the time of their lives, have been enjoying the delightfully long and frequent rehearsals, and the immense satisfaction of having taken a most worthy and successful share in the celebration. There is not one of them who will not in after times recall with pride the fact that they were "Centenary Students," and that their part was played with credit and honour to the School. (Cheers.) As to those much and often-tried friends, their Professors, nothing can be said which adequately represents our obligation to them. After all, they are the "Gods in the machine" who have made it move in the past, and to whom we look to provide its motive force in the new era upon which we now enter. Those of you who witnessed that brilliant Masque on Monday night must have realised how much we owe to the goodwill and affection of our ex-students and to the gifted author of the book, Mr. Louis Parker, and those splendid artists who interpreted the principal characters; it is quite beyond my powers of speech. (Cheers.) You know I mean Miss Julia Neilson and Miss Phyllis Neilson-Terry. (Cheers.) I could not make up my mind whether I really would have preferred to have been a Student in 1822 or a Student in 1922. (Laughter.) In this very connection I may not pass over an event—a Jubilee which happily synchronises with our Commemoration. It is that of one who—boy, man, Student, sub- and full-Professor, and now Member of

Committee—has for fifty years been of and with the Academy, and what it owes to him is so patent and obvious—far beyond its walls—that I need only mention Mr. Tobias Matthay's name. (Cheers.) I have frequently been asked how it is that we have so many medals to distribute. The awarding of medals is a tradition dating as far back as the earliest years of the Academy. I think it was in the second year of its existence that two medals were given, and on one occasion, we are told, that when water was low, only morocco cases containing pieces of chocolate were handed over, an artful piece of ingenious camouflage, to which with all our cleverness, present invention could hardly rise. (Laughter.) Those distributed to-day are sweeter and much more valuable. Then came a period when even the supply of chocolate ran dry. It was, I believe, in 1861 that the tradition was revived and continued, just a year before I entered as a Student, but it may console some of you to hear that during the whole of my three years' stay I never had one. (Laughter and loud cheers.) This present accumulation of itself represents an important stage in our annals. This year the "Dove Prize," for "general excellence, assiduity, and industry," was received by an accomplished student whose abilities as a pianist, vocalist, and operatic artist are recognised by you all. She is always ready to present your manuscript songs to best advantage, to accompany you, and frequently efface her own gifts for the benefit of her fellow-Students. You will all agree that Miss Olive Groves fully deserves the distinction. (Loud cheers.) It is usual for me to announce the name of the young student who takes the first award. I have therefore the pleasure to announce that a special prize allotted to the junior department, and given by one of our professors, Miss C. Martin, has been gained by Dorothy Phillips. (Cheers.) The occasions have been very rare indeed when some benefactions or bequests to the Institution had not to be recorded, and this is no barren year. At the recent winding-up of the Sunday Concert Society the sum of two hundred guineas was generously allotted to us, and Mr. Corder, as Chairman of the Society of British Composers, handed the balance of its assets, £82, to the Trustees of the Manns Memorial Fund. By the Will of one whose services were devoted to us for many years, the Academy benefits to the extent of £500. Mr. Gilbert Betjemann wished the bequest to bear the name of his late wife "Rose Dafforne" (an ex-student), and by leaving the use of the annual income to the

discretion of the authorities has adopted the most desirable manner of serving the School's interests. You will also find his name attached to the coveted Gold Medal for Operatic Singing. A new annual prize of ten guineas has been founded by Mrs. Ernest Kiver in memory of her son, Hubert Kiver—a most promising vocal student, who gave his life for his country in the Great War. The first competition will be for Baritones, after which it will be for the Committee to select the branch of study. And Mr. Henry W. Down, in a like mournful spirit, sends a contribution of twenty guineas to the "Students' Aid Fund" in memory of his son, Lionel Down, who also fell in defence of his country. The list ends with another gift from that indefatigable promoter of Chamber Music in all its forms of production and performance, Mr. Walter W. Cobbett, who wishes to commemorate our Centenary in his own liberal way. This is by no means the first occasion on which he has stimulated the practice of that pure and perfect branch of music. This time he offers two prizes, each of twenty-five guineas, to composers of Chamber works, the nature of which will be duly announced. One is to be competed for by present Students, the other by past Students of the Academy. The latter proposal almost calls for some limitation, or the most willing adjudicators might break down over their task. Mr. Cobbett has our grateful thanks. He knows how much we appreciate his generosity. (Cheers.) A few more words and I have done. I prefer, rather than as having reached the end of an epoch, to dwell upon the fact that we are at the beginning of another century of useful national work, and that in speeding the parting we are welcoming these coming years in which there is so much to be done, and to be done well. There is one important department in which we would dearly like to do better. One branch, essential to the future welfare of British music, has certainly received the earnest attention of the School from a very early period of its existence, and present results—although gained under obvious difficulties and necessarily restricted conditions—have proved to be eminently satisfactory. The "casts" of Sir Thomas Beecham's splendid performances, and also those of the more recent successful season of the National British Opera Company, included the names of many ex-Students who have risen to deservedly great prominence on the stage. We have strong views on this subject. Unlike the ghost in *Hamlet*, I am not "forbid to tell the secrets of my prison house"—rather

am I encouraged to "unfold a tale." It is a short story. As a fitting and permanent record of the Centenary, the Governing Bodies have recently acquired the lease of a contiguous site whereon to build a modest but fully-equipped Training Theatre for the benefit of future Operatic and Dramatic Students, at a cost of £3,600, and, in addition to that sum, have set aside as much as can be judiciously spared from its funds towards the cost of the building—namely, £10,000; in all, over £13,000. It will be conceded that this is a fairly large amount for an Art Institution to back its beliefs and aspirations with, but our Honorary Treasurer—a large-minded man—permits us to go thus far. This sincere endeavour to meet the needs of that necessary, attractive, but nevertheless most expensive item in the scheme of modern musical education may, it is hoped, be sufficiently appreciated as to induce music-lovers to encourage its speedy realisation in that practical manner upon which I cannot dwell just now, but you are quite at liberty to guess what I mean. (Laughter.) On these grounds the authorities need feel no reticence in suggesting a general support of their keen intentions in the interests of British Operatic Art. Without touching upon any more figures, or mentioning names, I must add that since preparing these notes, a very handsome, indeed a splendid amount, has already been contributed by a number of most generous friends, connected and unconnected with the Academy, but all about that must be reserved for another occasion. (Loud cheers.)

MR. ERNEST MATHEWS: Ladies and Gentlemen—The programme has been turned upside down, and after the charming address from the Principal there is nothing left but to send the facts all over the Kingdom, which we shall do, of course, when the right time arrives. As Chairman of the Centenary Committee I feel it my duty to ask you to give to Sir Alexander Mackenzie an ovation. When he came as our Principal thirty-four years ago the Academy finances, I think I may say without fear of contradiction, were in what we call low water; to-day they are not in low water. Eleven years ago we managed to get out of Hanover Square. My own recollection of the old house is that I used to lose my way in going to the Board Room. It was like a rabbit warren. We got out of Hanover Square and built our new Academy in Marylebone Road, and we thought that we had

